

Message Text

SECRET

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43

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FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9886

INFO AMEMBASSY MADRID

S E C R E T LISBON 2581

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PO, US

SUBJ: THEMIDO ON PRE-COUP LAJES NEGOTIATIONS

MADRID HOLD FOR AMBASSADORS SCOTT AND MCCLOSKEY

SUMMARY. GOP AMBASSADOR THEMIDO STATES THAT PRE-COUP
GOP POSITION, TO EFFECT THAT GOP WANTED US TO AGREE
NEGOTIATIONS WERE UNSUCCESSFUL AND BASE AGREEMENT TERMINAT-
ED, WERE ON PERSONAL ORDERS FROM CAETANO OVER OBJECTIONS
OF BOTH PATRICIO AND THEMIDO. END SUMMARY

1. I SAT NEXT TO THEMIDO IN SPINOLA PLANE ON TWO HOUR
FLIGHT LISBON TO AZORES JUNE 18. SUBJECT OF BASE
NEGOTIATIONS INADVERTENTLY CAME UP WHEN HE ASKED ME
WHAT I THOUGHT OF RUI PATRICIO FOR WHOM HE HAS GREAT
LIKING AND RESPECT. I SAID OUR PERSONAL RELATIONS
WERE EXCELLENT BUT EVERY MEETING I HAD WITH PATRICIO
DEVOTED TO HIS EXCORIATING USG FOR INGRATITUDE TO
GOP AND UNWILLINGNESS TO MODIFY OR REPEAL ARMS
EMBARGO AND EXPRESSING HIS VIEW THAT PORTUGAL WOULD
HAVE BEEN MUCH BETTER OFF HAD BASE AGREEMENT NOT BEEN
EXTENDED IN 1971 AND WOULD BE BETTER OFF NOW IF
NEGOTIATIONS TERMINATED AND US DEPARTED LAJES. I
SAID I UNDERSTOOD THIS WAS SAME POSITION THEMIDO HAD
TAKEN IN WASHINGTON NEGOTIATIONS. HE SAID I WAS QUITE
RIGHT BUT THAT THIS WAS ON DIRECT ORDERS FROM CAETANO

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WHICH PATRICIO AND THEMIDO OBEYED, BUT WITH WHICH

THEY DISAGREED AND SO TOLD CAETANO.

2. THEMIDO ALSO EXPRESSED GOP CURRENT VIEWS WE HAVE
REPORTED ELSEWHERE THAT THERE IS NO HURRY TO RENEW
NEGOTIATIONS BUT NO DOUBT THEY WILL BE SUCCESSFUL
WHEN RENEWED. RATIONALE IS THAT CHANGED INTERNATIONAL
CLIMATE RESULTING FROM GOP'S DEMONSTRATED GOOD FAITH
RE AFRICAN SELF-DETERMINATION WILL MAKE IT EASIER
FOR US TO SUPPORT AID WHICH GOP WILL REQUEST IN
RENEWED NEGOTIATIONS. NO MENTION MADE ON EITHER SIDE
OF MILITARY AID. SCOTT

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